

termed it at the time that a war would break out after we made this dash to Baghdad which is, in fact, what happened, as much as I opposed that, we bear responsibility too. And I want to indicate to people that we are down on this floor not just because we need to hear ourselves talk; we are down on this floor because this Congress needs to be accountable too. The very questions that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) has been asking, this Congress should have been asking. We should not have allowed ourselves to be pushed into doing the most profound and fundamental thing that any Congress can do and that any President can do, which is take us into war. This should be a lesson to all of us, including and perhaps starting with the Congress.

The Constitution says only the Congress can declare war. When did it happen that we turned it over to the President to make his or her own decision on that issue? We have a responsibility, too; and I want to indicate to everybody, at least for this Member, and I think I am probably speaking for the other Members on the floor here, we intend to come back here, not because we are doing penance, but because we are doing oversight, the oversight that we should have done before. Maybe the same conclusion would have been arrived at, I do not know, I doubt it; but we should have been doing these things.

No commission should be looking into this right now. The plain fact is we should be looking into it, and that is what this Iraq Watch is going to do. We may not have the benefit of having the President in front of us or Mr. CHENEY or others, but we have the benefit of understanding what the revelations have been and what their meanings are and to search for the truth, and that is our obligation. And I hope that if nothing else comes out of all of this, that in future the Congress will take seriously its obligation and carry forward on the understanding that only the Congress can declare war; and it should be only done over the most thorough and complete examination as to what has taken place and what the strategic and moral interests of the United States are.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I am reminded of the words of Brent Scowcroft and others in the first Bush administration, those that served under President George Herbert Walker Bush, but particularly what Brent Scowcroft stated in a column that he wrote. He expressed a fear that a unilateral rush into a preemptive war would undercut worldwide support for the war on terror and cast America as an aggressor Nation for the first time in our history. Now, here is a gentleman, a lifelong Republican, presumably, a man well respected internationally, has an excellent reputation here in Washington as a serious person, a man of unimpeachable integrity. And I think we have all been saying in our own different ways what he said so elo-

quently. And sadly, we find ourselves in that very, very tragic moment where we are losing allies, we are losing the respect of the international community; friends are beginning to turn their backs on us. And, if that occurs, the war that we must win, the war on terror, is very much at risk.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TAUZIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEHAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELLER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today and March 24.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and March 24 and 25.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HULSHOF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and March 24 and March 30.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, March 24.

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, March 24.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Gar-

den Club of America; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, March 24, 2004, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7220. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Private and Local Government Fleet Determination [Docket No. EE-RM-03-001] (RIN: 1904-AA98) received March 1, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7221. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Sta., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue-Based Products; Establishment Registration and Listing [Docket No. 97N-484R] received March 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7222. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Sta., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue-Based Products; Establishment Registration and Listing; Correction [Docket No. 97N-484R] received March 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7223. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Public Law 107-243 and Public Law 102-1, to help ensure that the Congress is kept informed on the status of United States efforts in the global war on terrorism; (H. Doc. No. 108-175); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

7224. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's Performance Budget Justification for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7225. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act," pursuant to Public Law 107-273 section 202(a)(1)(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7226. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2002 Annual Report of the Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education, pursuant to Public Law 103-322; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7227. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the 2004 Trade Policy Agenda and 2003 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2213(a); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7228. A letter from the Board of Trustees, Federal Old-Age And Survivors Insurance